WO 2004/110878 PCT/IB2004/001956

## CLAIMS

- 1) Progressively-collapsible disposable container, of the type in which at least part of the lateral surface of the container consists of a bellows structure comprising a plurality of adjacent folds, each fold being formed by two opposite surfaces of different width, characterised in that the larger-width surface is stiffer than the smaller-width surface.
- 2) Container as claimed in claim 1), wherein the greater stiffness of the larger fold surface is a shape stiffness.
- 3) Container as claimed in claim 2), wherein said largerwidth surface of the folds is shaped so as to form a stiffening rib projecting outwards of the container.

10

25

- 4) Container as claimed in claim 3), wherein said rib is shaped as a rounded-edge step.
- 15 5) Container as claimed in claim 4), wherein the maximum height of said step-rib is comprised between 20 and 50% of the overall width of the larger surface of the fold in which said rib is formed.
- 6) Container as claimed in claim 4), wherein the extension of said step-rib is preferably comprised between 60 and 80% of the overall width of the larger surface of the fold in which said rib is formed.
  - 7) Container as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said smaller-width surface is arched and its convexity faces towards said larger surface.
  - 8) Container as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said adjacent folds are mutually separated, in correspondence of their bottom, by anular sections having a shell-shaped profile.
- 9) Container as claimed in claim 8), wherein said anular sections comprise a vertical, sub-vertical or arched wall connected to the surfaces of the adjacent folds through horizontal or sub-horizontal connecting walls.
- 10) Container as claimed in claim 9), wherein the orientation and/or the curvature of such connecting walls is such as to form, with the corresponding surfaces of the adjacent folds, angular areas having an opposite curvature to the one

WO 2004/110878 PCT/IB2004/001956

taken up by the same areas when the container is collapsed.

- 11) Container as claimed in any one of the previous claims, wherein, in correspondence of one or both of the connecting areas between the lateral surfaces of said adjacent folds, a plurality of micro-incisions is provided, circumferentially arranged in a symmetrical manner.
- 12) Container as claimed in claim 11), wherein said micro-incisions are shaped as semi-spherical micro-depressions.
- 13) Container as claimed in any one of the preceding 10 claims, characterised in that said container is a bottle apt to contain liquids.